

REDONDO DISTRICT BEST FOR TORRANCE

Torrance voters tomorrow will decide an issue important to the education of the children of this community.

At two polling places within the city, electors will decide which of two high school districts will be selected to provide the secondary education for the students of this city until the Torrance Unified School district is formed later this year.

Only voters of Torrance can decide this question, although many families residing outside the confines of Torrance will be concerned. Assurance is given that all students now attending Torrance high school will be able to continue attendance at Torrance high school, whether the school is operated by Redondo Union high school district or by continuing the affiliation with Los Angeles City high school district.

The present school year will be completed under Los Angeles. In September of this year, the district selected Friday (tomorrow) will take over. Graduating students will have their credits protected in both instances, and there will be very little change in the scholastic program except for the better.

Voters living south of 190th st. are asked to cast their ballots at Torrance high school between the hours of 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. Those living north of 190th st. will vote at the Perry school from 1 p. m. to 7 p. m.

This election is being conducted by the office of the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3896, 3463 and 3471, Education Code, which provides that a newly formed city school district, such as Torrance, must select an adjoining district to conduct its high school affairs during the formative stages of the new city school district.

Torrance will become a part either of Redondo Union high school district or Los Angeles City high school district for one year only. Torrance Unified School district will control all schools from kindergarten through high school on July 1, 1948.

It is pointed out that the membership of Torrance in the new El Camino college district will be decided automatically by the same ballot.

If Torrance goes into Redondo district, the area becomes a part of El Camino district; if not, the students here remain in the Los Angeles Junior college district without a local school to attend.

Electors are urged to vote tomorrow, Friday, to join the Redondo Union high school district for the future education of the children of this community.

FIRST BOARD OF EDUCATION

The people of Torrance, at long last, will assume control of their schools this year, and the first Torrance Board of Education will be elected by the people on March 18.

This Board of Education is faced with a terrific responsibility and months of long hours and hard work.

The members will be "on the spot" from the time they take oath of office. They will be expected to carry through and provide the finest school system in California, in the city of Torrance.

They will be watched closely by the people of Torrance, by the parents of our school children; each act will be subjected to scrutiny of an interested citizenry; there will be among our people those who will be prepared to heap criticism and ridicule upon them; there will be those who soon will forget that we are building an absolutely new school system and who will expect the Board of Education to function as if the members were old timers at the game.

The job of the first Torrance Board of Education, an historic one it will be, will not be easy. They will serve without pay, under provisions of the City Charter.

Therefore, in the face of the tremendous task which faces the first Torrance Board of Education, the people of Torrance should give consideration to those among us who are thoroughly aware of the job ahead of them, and who have had close contact with the problem during the months of investigation and campaigning, which brought about the writing and adoption of the City Charter which has provided for Torrance the Torrance City School system.

Tried and tested, aware of the temper of the people of Torrance, the contests of its various factions, are the members of the Torrance Charter Committee which has done an admirable job in bringing to the people of Torrance the control of their own schools.

They are: Howard A. Wood, M. D., James L. Lynch, Mrs. Mina Shidler, Carl D. Steele and Mrs. Grace Washburn Wright. Unfortunately, Mrs. Shidler has stated definitely that she cannot be a candidate for the first Board of Education, and in her stead, the name of Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman of the Torrance Parents Association, automatically is placed.

The Charter Committee was appointed by Mayor Sherfy and the City Council to perform the task of writing the charter, conducting the campaign for its adoption and seeing it through the various steps leading to ratification and actual election of the Board of Education. Mrs. Carr has been a close advisor on these tasks.

Let us study the records and qualifications of this group. Dr. Wood was born in South Dakota in 1894. He took his pre-medical course at Winfield College, McMinnville, Ore., completing it at Yale, where he received his M. D. degree in 1925. He came to California in 1926 and practiced in Long Beach until moving to Beaumont in 1935. There, while engaged in private practice, he was elected to the Beaumont Union High School Board of Trustees and the Beaumont Elementary District Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board of Trustees at Beaumont, Calif., he became thoroughly versed in school problems and directed the construction of a new school plant there. He came to Torrance, where he associated with Dr. John W. Beaman and Dr. Clifford E. Easley in 1941. He has been active in the charter and school campaign since it was undertaken in 1944.

James L. Lynch was born in Maine in 1902 and educated in the schools there. He came to California first in 1923, returned to Maine and then again to California, where he purchased an orange grove at Redlands. He operated the orange grove until 1935, going then to Los Angeles, where he was engaged in the sales business. Mr. Lynch came to Torrance in 1940, purchasing the Torrance Hotel which he now owns and operates together with the several store fronts in the building. Mr. and Mrs. Lynch, and their six children ages two to 16, reside at the family home.

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This is how your ballot will appear tomorrow, when you go to the polls to select the high school district to which Torrance City School district will belong:

(Sample)

BALLOT

Indicate your choice by placing an (X) in the square showing the High School District to which you wish the Torrance City School District to belong:

NO. 1.	Los Angeles City High School District of Los Angeles County	
NO. 2.	Redondo Union High School District of Los Angeles County	X

Polling places and hours are as follows:
For those voters living South of 190th St., Torrance High School, from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m.
For those voters living North of 190th St., Perry School, from 1 p. m. to 7 p. m.

TORRANCE HERALD

33rd YEAR—No. 4

12

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . THREE SECTIONS — 22 PAGES

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1947

5 CENTS

TORRANCE VOTERS URGED TO SELECT REDONDO HIGH IN SCHOOL VOTE FRIDAY

Torrance voters tomorrow, Jan. 24, will be asked to decide whether Torrance City School district shall become a part of Redondo Union High School district in the interim required before Torrance Unified School district can be formed, or whether the district shall be part of the Los Angeles City High School district.

The election is required by the Education Code.

Two polling places have been provided by the office of the County Superintendent of Schools.

One is at the Torrance High school, open from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m., for voters residing South of 190th street.

The other is at Perry School, open from 1 p. m. to 7 p. m., for voters residing North of 190th street.

Only qualified electors of the City of Torrance may vote.

While the issue does not appear on the ballot, one of the principal reasons of the Torrance Charter Committee and others in urging the voters to select Redondo Union High School district (No. 2 on the ballot), is that it automatically will place Torrance in the El Camino Junior College district.

It is reported that unless the vote is in favor of Redondo, Torrance will be unable to join El Camino district. The college will be built at Alondra park, adjoining Torrance on the north. Los Angeles has provided no local junior college facilities for the students of Torrance.

Redondo Union High School district Board of Trustees is prepared to take over the Torrance High School plant as of July, 1947, and to conduct classes there for the year until Torrance Unified School district, formed later this year, takes over in July, 1948. Meanwhile, only the elementary schools will be under the Torrance Board of Education, to be elected March 18, this year.

In a letter to Dr. Howard A. Wood, chairman of the Charter Committee, Robert Russell, president of the Redondo Union High School district Board of Trustees, expressed the willingness of that board to handle Torrance High School students and classes during the next school year.

The seniors graduating in the W47 and S47 classes will receive diplomas from Los Angeles. If the voters select Redondo tomorrow, the seniors of W48 and S48 will receive diplomas from Redondo, but their credits and status will be altered in no way. However, it has been pointed out, Redondo has had one of the highest scholastic standards in California, thus making the diploma much more valuable.

President Russell told Dr. Wood in his letter: "On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Redondo Union High School District I wish to express the willingness of the board to take care of the Torrance students and classes during the next school year."

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Willett Gets City Attorney Appointment

Otto E. Willett Named City Attorney

Otto E. Willett was named city attorney of Torrance effective Feb. 1 by the City Council Tuesday night.

Willett's appointment, under Civil Service rules, is temporary pending an examination by the Civil Service board. He must place among the three top men to get the permanent job.

Attorney Willett will succeed to the position occupied by John E. McCall for nine years. McCall resigned due to the press of his private law practice which is requiring him to spend much of his time outside of the confines of Los Angeles County and California.

The position remains on a temporary basis, the salary being \$265 a month. Willett also has a private law practice.

The new city attorney has been filling a newly created position as deputy city attorney and prosecutor during the past year. Whether or not this position will be filled again or abolished was not announced.

The office of deputy was created at the request of McCall, who said that the work of his office was too heavy to handle alone.

One additional application was handed the City Council Tuesday night, by W. E. Kalbfleisch, whose letter said that he had been practicing law for 15 years. It was ordered placed on file.

During the war Willett occupied the bench of Torrance City court.

County Area Asks To Join Torrance School District

When the question of fixing the school district to which the area now in the Perry elementary school district, but outside Torrance limits, will belong starting July 1, 1947, comes before the Board of Supervisors, the county board will find a petition before it asking that the area be assigned to Torrance City school district. The only other choice would be the Redondo elementary district.

Residents of the unincorporated section known as El Nido strongly favor the Torrance City school district. It is pointed out, because of the greater advantages which the little area will enjoy due to the tremendous assessed valuation of Torrance.

El Nido, like all northwest Torrance, also is in Redondo Union high school district.

Congressional Investigation Looms Into Maneuvers To Prevent Torrance From Acquiring Control of Airport

REPORT TORRANCE WATER WELL CONTAMINATED WITH SALT WATER; FIRST HERE

Residents of Torrance this week are giving thanks to the wisdom of the people on March 13, 1931, when they voted Torrance into the Metropolitan Water District, for it has been revealed that already one North Torrance water well has become saline contaminated.

The well which is going to salt water is located on the Joseph Svitek property at 182nd st. and Yukon ave.

This is the first well as far inland which has been reported contaminated with ocean water, the others being in the area as far as two miles inland from Manhattan Beach. It is located in Torrance Municipal Water District No. 2, just recently formed and which will be in operation using Metropolitan water within a year.

The announcement of the salt well came on the heels of failure of the people of the entire West Basin to heed the warning of salt water intrusion into the basin and form a Municipal Water district. The idea was voted down Jan. 14, principally due to the claims of private water company interests that "we have plenty of water" and "we don't have to worry about salt water coming into our wells."

Such opposition had been used against the formation of M.W.D. No. 2 in North Torrance, but the voters approved the district overwhelmingly.

Torrance and Los Angeles

shoestring strip area are the only sections of the entire West Basin with membership in Metropolitan.

The beach strip area in favor of the formation of the Municipal Water District on Jan. 14, but were out-voted by inland areas and the district plan failed.

It is said the areas which voted in favor of the district will attempt to form a smaller unit to join Metropolitan.

Eminent water authorities, including officials of the United States Geological Survey, had warned that because of the over-draft of ground water in wells of the West Basin, the water level was dropping to a point where the flow of underground streams is inland from the ocean. In the year gone by, the water had been flowing underground toward the ocean. This reversal, plus dropping water levels, is said to be responsible for the salt water intrusion.

Development Of Water System In North Torrance Proceeds Rapidly

Construction of water mains to serve North Torrance will proceed much faster than anticipated, according to estimates given by William Stanger, manager of Torrance Municipal Water districts.

Manufacturers of the pipe needed for development of the system are promising 100-day delivery at this time, whereas a few weeks ago the best they could schedule was from 12 to 18-month delivery.

Stanger said that pipe has been ordered for carrying Metropolitan water to several new tracts along Crenshaw Blvd., and this will proceed ahead of the overall district plan because of the necessity for new housing in Torrance.

Aimed ultimately at providing Metropolitan water for several new tracts along Crenshaw Blvd., considerable 10-inch pipe already has been ordered. These include the Metro Construction Co. tract and the Homer Bales development. Twelve-inch pipe has been ordered for a section along 190th st. to facilitate construction projects.

The water department has prepared estimates on the cost of installation of water mains in several tracts, and arrangements may be made for construction work by the city paid for by the developers. This cost to the developers would be rebated up to 70 percent over a

period of 10 years, according to Stanger.

On the Bales tract, at 174th st. and Crenshaw Blvd., an estimate of \$16,640 was prepared. This would cost \$87.58 per lot with a refund provided of \$63.31 per lot over a period of 10 years.

Stanger said that orders for Metropolitan connections for both the North Torrance and Wateria water districts have been issued through Taylor & Taylor, water engineers. Due to the many problems in the Wateria section, however, it is estimated that the North Torrance system will move much more rapidly than the one in Southwest Torrance.

Considerable development in North Torrance is contemplated with the coming of a municipal water system, with almost 600 homes being planned there by subdividers for immediate construction.

The overall North Torrance plan calls for a half-mile grid system of mains, constructed under the \$174,000 bond issue voted recently. Water would be carried to lot lines by the district, the householder paying the cost from the lot line to the point of consumption.

Estimates also have been prepared for installation of water mains in the Ketter tract at Sepulveda Blvd. and Narbonne ave., it was said.

Congressional inquiry into maneuvers contrary to the interests of the City of Torrance in its attempt to acquire all of the former Lomita flight strip as a municipal airport has been demanded by Rep. Cecil R. King following the receipt of information in Washington that interests other than governmental subdivisions are preparing to assume control of the 480-acre army developed airport.

Council Acted Too Late To Get Special Census

Torrance is too late to get a special census and thereby secure additional gas tax funds, it was announced Tuesday night at the City Council meeting.

A letter from the Bureau of Census responding to the application of Torrance for a special census informed the council that since the period of the war emergency had ended no further special population counts will be taken.

Many California cities had requested and secured special counts and thereby secured a greater quantity of motor vehicle and gas tax funds.

Torrance City Council had been talking about asking for the special count, but only a few weeks ago got around to making formal application. The city now must wait until 1950 before an official count of the number of people can be secured, that being the year when the next regular census will be taken.

Congressman King told the mayor that the W.A.A. license had been informally authorized.

The Corps of Engineers' office in Washington asked the Los Angeles division to expedite entry of the City of Torrance to the whole airport, stating that a Congressional inquiry was involved in the whole matter. This entry, however, had not been demanded by the city up to last night.

Meanwhile a group of members of the Civil Air Patrol, backed financially by half dozen Lomita business men, were said to be preparing to make effective a five-year lease to all the airport except the flight strip itself, which had been granted previously under perpetual lease to the City of Torrance, and a 250-foot area on either side of the military runway which had been dedicated as "Zamperini field."

This lease, it was said, is subject to change of control of the airport in favor of a government agency eligible to such control, and it is assumed that the City of Torrance is the only qualified agency which has requested use and occupancy of the airport.

Alondra Park College Bill Before Warren

Assembly Bill 62, by Glen M. Anderson, which will permit the conveyance of a portion of Alondra Park to the El Camino Junior College for its campus, prepared by both houses of the Legislature, is now awaiting the signature of the Governor.

Anderson, in his arguments for the bill, pointed out how this method of securing 75 acres for the site of the Junior College will save the taxpayers of the district approximately \$150,000.00.

He further stated that the Federal Government has indicated it will make available to the district, when it secures a definite campus, at least ten or twelve large buildings now located at Southern California air bases.

The Federal government interest is prompted by the large proportion of ex-G.I.'s now enrolled in El Camino Junior College. This will save the taxpayers of the district another huge sum.

Interested parties should write Governor Warren urging his signing the bill as soon as possible.

TRAILER PARK DENIED

A \$15,000 trailer park at 21729 So. Figueroa st. this week met a denial for construction by the Civilian Production Administration. Applicants for the building of the park were Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Gindling of the same address.



MEXICAN GOVERNORS VISIT HERE . . . Two governors of Mexican states visited the General Petroleum Corp. plant last week, and met with local business men to discuss a projected tour to Mexico. Pictured, left to right, are W. M. McElroy, vice president of General Petroleum Corp.; Governor Alberto V. Aldrete Sr. of Baja California, Mayor Hugh Sherfy Jr. of Torrance, Governor J. M. Rodriguez of the state of Aguascalientes, Edwin B. Brown, president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, and Dean Sears, chairman of Kiwanis International "On-to-Mexico" good will tour, planned by the local club Feb. 20. (Torrance Herald photo.)

Governors From Mexico Guests At Local Plant

Torrance industrial and civic leaders met last week with eleven governors of Mexico and State, Baja California and Aguascalientes, and traded "good neighbor" greetings.

The noted visitors, Gov. Alberto V. Aldrete and Gov. J. M. Rodriguez, were met by W. M. McElroy of the General Petroleum Corporation, Mayor Hugh Sherfy, Edwin B. Brown and Dean Sears of the Torrance Kiwanis Club at the General Petroleum Torrance plant.

After an expression of appreciation to the peace and prosperity contribution to the oil industry and amazement of the growth and development of Torrance during the last ten years, the governors told of the plans now under way in their own states which will have a direct relation to the peace and prosperity of both United States and Mexico.

Governor Aldrete, of Baja California, told Brown and Dean Sears of his plans to welcome and entertain Torrance Kiwanis Good Will party during their three day good-will trip in Mexico on February 20, 21, and 22.